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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

For Week Ending
17 November 1948

Vol. III No. 45

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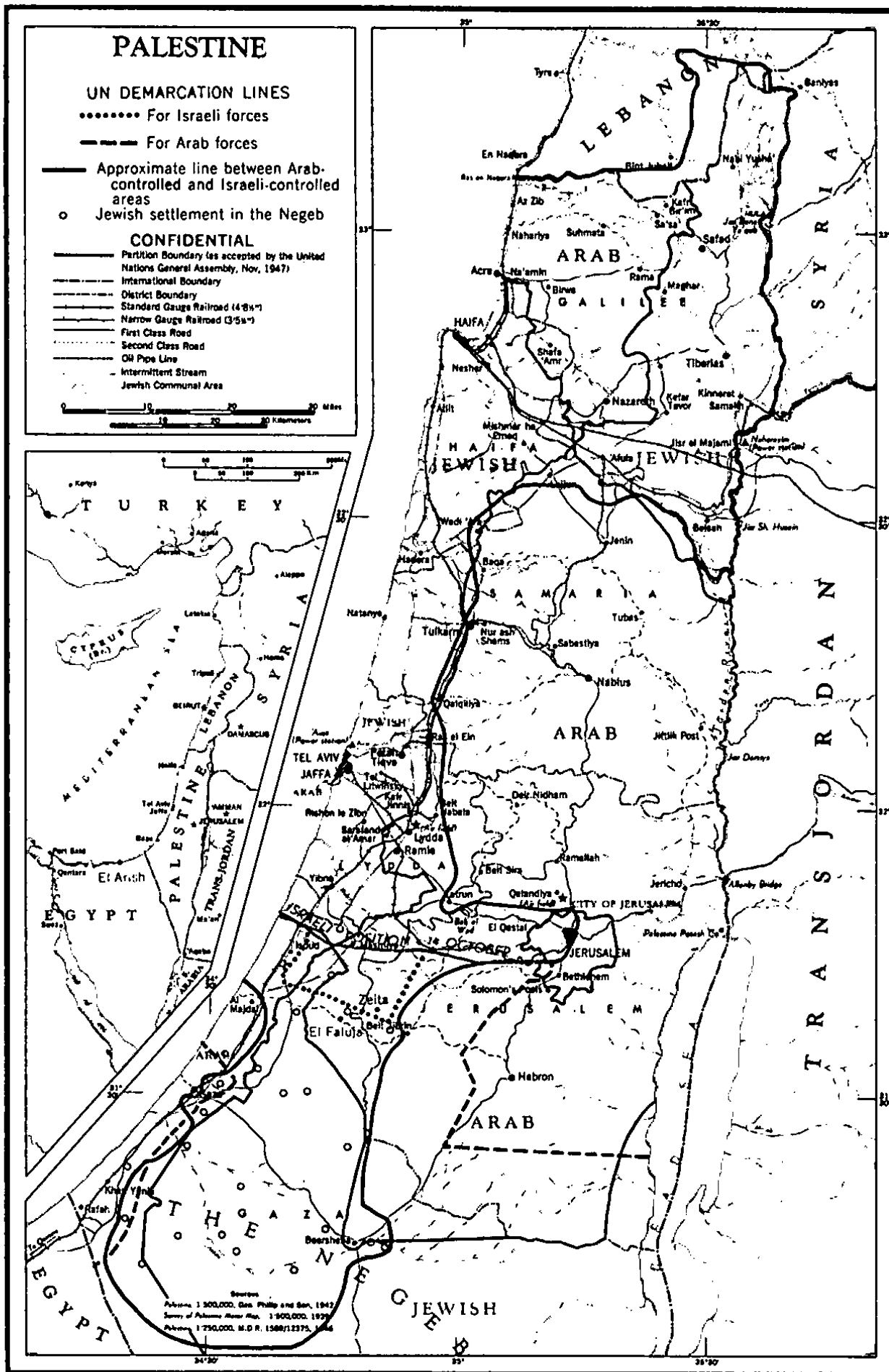
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GREECE

Communist activity in Cyprus has grown in intensity and violence to the point where the formerly sanguine British authorities are now exhibiting some concern. AKEL, the Communist Party of Cyprus, has already obtained a dangerously large representation among local government officials of the island; during the past year it has been making a special effort to complete its control over the labor movement. Although AKEL was defeated in its first test strike last year, the Communists have renewed their drive with a building trades strike, begun in August 1948, which has been marked by violent intimidation of non-striking workers and by the dynamiting of valuable commercial and military installations, and which has served to delay construction of both UK military facilities and a US monitoring station. AKEL's labor drive has been accompanied by other indications of intensified Communist activity. AKEL has become increasingly bold in its financial support of the Markos forces in Greece and, aided by Soviet propaganda attacks on US and UK imperialism in Cyprus, has heightened its agitation for self-government for Cyprus. The Communists are now estimated to be able to mobilize 15,000-20,000 men armed with small arms and explosives. Some 11,000 Jewish internees, most of them able-bodied men, are now confined on the island and present an additional threat to public order. The British, who realize that the 4,500 British troops on the island might have trouble in controlling the situation if disorders were to break out, have belatedly begun to consider precautionary measures. The present Governor of Cyprus, who has done little to control the Communists, has been called home to discuss the situation with the Colonial Office and is reportedly planning to resign. It is rumored that the Colonial Office is planning to outlaw the Communists.

PALESTINE

The possibility of renewed hostilities in Palestine is being increased by the Security Council's failure to take definitive action. Although in its resolution of 4 November the SC ordered the Jews to withdraw from the Negeb, it is now searching for a formula which will rule out the necessity of enforcing that resolution through the application of sanctions. Such back-tracking has convinced the Jews that the SC is

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desires to deprive them of their territorial gains, and they have refused to withdraw from the Negev. The British, fearing that this defiance of the SC may provoke aggression against their ally Trans-Jordan, are stock piling material in that country. The Jews may denounce this action by the UK as a treaty violation and use it as an excuse for opening a new offensive against the Arab forces still in Palestine. On the other hand, the continued presence of Israeli troops in southern Lebanon (which has been largely disregarded by the SC), may provoke desperate retaliatory action by Lebanese and Syrian forces reportedly massing in the area. It is still possible that the Arabs and Jews will agree to carry on peace negotiations, either directly or through the UN Mediator; however, the Jews would probably demand more concessions than the Arabs would grant, with the result that the Jews would once again resort to force in order to obtain their objectives.

SYRIA

Syrian ratification of the oil pipeline agreement with TAPCO (Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company) is being urged by Foreign Minister Barazi, who is probably motivated by Syria's economic plight as well as by the report that TAPCO might approach Egypt for transit and terminal rights if Syria failed to ratify the convention before the end of the year. Moreover, Lebanon, which has ratified the agreement, is pressing for Syrian ratification as a condition to the continuation of the customs union between the two countries. To date, Syria's refusal to ratify the agreement has stood as a strong symbol of the nation's resentment against the Palestine policy of the US, and it is doubtful whether Barazi will be able to obtain parliamentary ratification until the Palestine situation has clarified. Nevertheless, his pressure has resulted in the Arab League's rescinding its resolution restricting the award of new concessions to countries favoring the partition of Palestine. It seems probable that Barazi's current activities are designed to remove outstanding obstacles so that ratification may be expedited when political conditions favor it.

IRAQ

At a recent secret meeting of the Iraqi Parliament, Prime Minister Pachaohi received an 80 to 25 vote of confidence. The outcome of the vote was completely unexpected to Pachaohi, who had just delivered a blistering attack on the legislators and thought that he had thereby ruined his chances of remaining in the government. In his tirade he emphasized that the Arab leaders themselves were responsible for the present difficulties over Palestine, and implied that they would eventually have to come to some agreement with the Jews along the lines of

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the Bernadotte Plan. He supported the UN-stamped Portsmouth Treaty, inveighed against the anti-government activities of such groups as the Independence Party, condemned the Finance Minister for attempting to resign while aware of the difficult financial and economic situation at the time he accepted the portfolio, and generally worked off a considerable amount of spleen. It may be that the Prime Minister's visit will have a salutary effect; perhaps the confidence vote means that Iraqi leaders will now be prepared to deal with the country's problems on a more realistic basis, instead of laying all the blame for their troubles at the door of the Western powers.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

The inter-Dominion Conference scheduled to begin 6 December at New Delhi will probably confine itself to the minutiae of Indian-Pakistani relations, either ignoring such major issues as Kashmir or smothering them in platitudes. The conferees will certainly work out the detailed trade and transportation arrangements required if the Indian and Pakistani economies are to be kept from collapse, and they may be able to obtain some understanding regarding military stores left by the British. How much farther they will go along the path of collaboration is, however, problematical.

One potentially explosive issue on the agenda is that raised by the mass migration of Hindus from East Pakistan to the Indian province of West Bengal which has taken place during the last two months. Motivated mainly by economic pressure but also spurred on by new feelings of insecurity under Moslem rule, some one and one-quarter million Hindus (or about 10 percent of the East Pakistan Hindu population) participated in the recent migration, and Indian Deputy Prime Minister Patel has demanded that Pakistan cede to India certain areas in East Bengal for use in resettlement of the refugees. Pakistan may make the counter-suggestion that the area India wants in East Bengal be exchanged for portions of India's East Punjab for the use of Moslem refugees, and some arrangement might be worked out. However, India, though genuinely concerned over the economic problems created by the migrations, may be making its demand primarily to harass Pakistan and to establish a plausible claim for a one-way transfer of territory.

NOTED IN BRIEF

The current emphasis on "reconciliation" in Greek guerrilla propaganda is apparently intended to undermine Greek Army and civilian morale. The guerrillas still have the capability of causing widespread destruction; that they are not earnestly seeking peace at this time is

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indicated by their intensive build-up of supply and reserves for winter action. The fact that Turkey's chief UN delegate, Selim Sarper, is rapporteur of the General Assembly's Committee One provides the Turks with an excellent opportunity for urging upon the Arabs the peaceful evolution of the Palestine dispute which Turkey considers so important to its own security. Sarper is well qualified to appeal to the Arabs while the Palestine issue is under consideration in Committee One. He is himself a Moslem and, moreover, cast Turkey's vote against partition in the 29 November 1947 balloting. Transjordan is planning the issue of a new currency, to be known as Transjordan dinars. Transjordan will rejoin the sterling bloc when the new unit, backed by sterling, becomes available (probably in April or May). The Lebanese Council of Ministers has decided that Israelis cannot be admitted to Lebanon to attend the UNESCO conference and that invitations to them cannot be approved. Ibn Saud has given the impression that he wishes the USAF to remain at the Dhahran Airbase beyond termination of the present agreement in March 1949. The King probably continues to hope that in return for renewing the agreement he will receive US military aid and guarantees, although he is not expected to insist on these as a sine qua non. The establishment of closer Anglo-Egyptian relations is apparently under consideration by Egypt. Despite stringent press censorship, three ex-prime ministers recently attacked the government's anti-British policy, and King Farouk reportedly favors resumption of Anglo-Egyptian negotiations even if it should necessitate the removal of Nokrashy from the premiership.

. . . Iran's unexplained action in voting with the Soviet bloc's UN proposal that foreign troops be immediately withdrawn from Greece is particularly puzzling in view of the USSR's similar demands for withdrawal of US military missions from Iran. India's Constituent Assembly will begin voting in December on the provisions of its draft constitution, which is now the subject of heated debate. One of the major points to be defined is that of India's relationship with the British Commonwealth.

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